New York, New York Public Library, Spencer Collection, NYPL Spencer 136

Description: ff. 104 - Bound in contemporary sheep over wooden boards. - Collection of Count Wilczek, Austria. Bought for Spencer, 1959. - Dictionary Catalog, Spencer Collection, 906. P.L. Rose, "The Taccola Manuscripts," PhysisX no. 4 (1968), 337-46. J.H. Beck, "The Historical 'Taccola' and Emperor Sigismund in Siena," The Art BulletinL (1968), 309-20.

Notes:-The ms. is foliated 1-104, missing the first folio (labelled a) and labelling 2 blank folios as 5a and 5b. But ff. 21, 36 and 64 are missing (stubs visible), so the total number remains 104. Foliation in the manuscripts is used for convenience.

Number of Parts: 1 - *Number of Images Available:* 7

Direct Link: http://ds.lib.berkeley.edu/NYPLSpencer136_42

Language: Latin *Country:* Italy *Century:* 15th

Part 1: ff. 1-104v

Description: - Paper - ff. 103-104, watermark of cross based on diameter of circle (not in Briquet). - 314 x 218 mm - Most pages contain drawings and a few lines of commentary. Text pages contain up to 40 long lines per page, ruled in very faded ink.

Country: Italy

Cardinal point:

Region: Tuscany

City: Siena?

Assigned Date: s. XV^{med}

Searchable Date Range: 1440 - 1460

Dated by scribe: No

Inscribed Date:

Document: No

Number of Scribes: ;2?: A, ff. a-102v; B, f. 104v

Scribe(s): Borsatis

Script: Humanistic cursive

Artist(s): Borsatis

Figurative Decoration: Many drawings contain human figures.

Other Decoration: Drawings of siege weapons, tactics etc. 2- and 3-line red initials.

Notes: Dated to ca. 1449; on f. 102, the scribe (Borsatis) copied the colophon of his exemplar, which is dated 1449. Rose suggests that Borsatis copied this ms. from a Taccola autograph such as Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, clm 28800. Latin

Number of Texts: 1

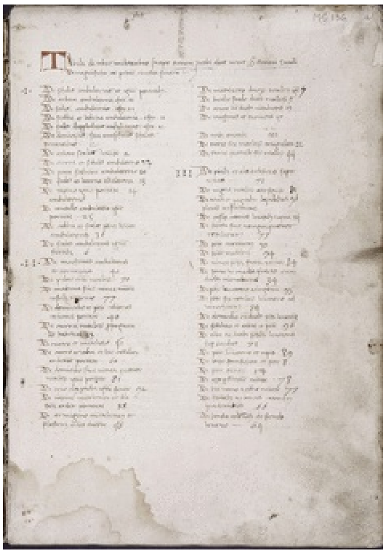
Text 1: ff. 1-104v

Author: Mariano di Jacopo Vanni of Siena, or Il Taccola

Language(s): Latin

Incipit: Tabula de rebus militaribus Incipit Mariani Jacobi alias vocati S. Mariani Taccola de magnificha ac potente civitate senarum. f. 1: Liber iste est salus anime et corporis et est perditio anime et corporis. Salus est ihesus qui operari semper…

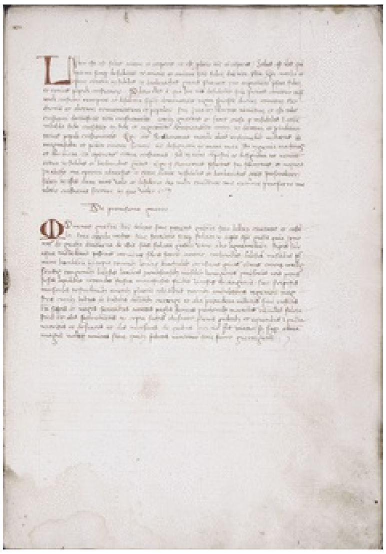
Notes: Folio numbers in table of contents do not correspond to the folios in this manuscript. Il Taccola (1381-1453/58?) was nicknamed the Archimedes of Siena.



f. a Opening of table of contents; main hand, 2-line initial, red slashes as placemarkers.

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f. 1 Opening of main text, red initials, red slashes as placemarkers.

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f. 6 Armed knight on a horse leaving a walled castle with text below.

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f. 68 Image of siege tactics with a war machine to cross moats.

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f. 102 Drawing of a castle in a landscape; colophon suggesting that Borsatis copied autograph of Taccola.

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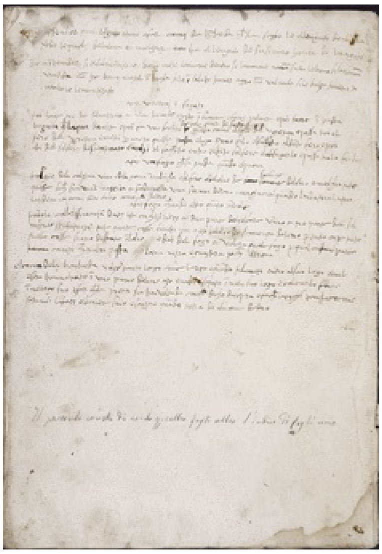
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f. 102v End of section written in main hand; spheres of earth, water, air and aether.

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f. 104v Explicit of text, written in hand 2 from 15th century.

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